



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



December 2003

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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### WISCONSIN, Southeast

**WIZ046>047-051>052-056>060-062>072**      **Marquette - Green Lake - Fond Du Lac - Sheboygan - Sauk - Columbia - Dodge - Washington - Ozaukee - Iowa - Dane - Jefferson - Waukesha - Milwaukee - Lafayette - Green - Rock - Walworth - Racine - Kenosha**

<b>01</b>	<b>0000CST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Drought</b>
<b>09</b>	<b>2359CST</b>			

Thanks to 1.5 to almost 2.5 inches of precipitation that fell on Dec 9th and 10, long-term drought conditions ended across south-central and southeast Wisconsin. The precipitation started as rain but switched over to snow on the 10th from west to east. The much-needed precipitation was associated with low pressure moving east across southern Wisconsin. An amateur radio operator near Delavan (Walworth Co.) had a two-day total of 2.49 inches. Milwaukee Mitchell Field (Milwaukee Co.) gathered 1.46 inches and Madison Truax Field (Dane Co.) came in with 1.66 inches. The drought conditions (at least D0 - abnormally dry) began on August 1, 2003. However, parts of south-central and southeast Wisconsin would go on to finish 2003 several inches below normal for yearly precipitation. Milwaukee only had 22.30 inches of precipitation in 2003 (normal is 34.81 inches) - the driest year since 1963 when only 19.10 inches was measured. Madison had 31.74 inches for 2003 (normal is 32.95 inches). In addition, much of south-central and southeast Wisconsin was 5 to 8 inches below normal in 2002 for yearly precipitation.

**WIZ047-051-057>058-062>064-067>068**      **Green Lake - Fond Du Lac - Columbia - Dodge - Iowa - Dane - Jefferson - Lafayette - Green**

<b>10</b>	<b>0600CST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Winter Weather/Mix</b>
	<b>1900CST</b>			

Parts of south-central and southeast Wisconsin experienced the fringe effects of a heavy snow event that affected primarily central and northern Wisconsin. Two to four inches fell west of a Portage (Columbia Co.) to Madison (Dane Co.) to Brodhead (Green Co.) line, after several hours of rain. Lesser amounts fell east of this line. The precipitation change-over resulted in icy road conditions that led to dozens of vehicle accidents. The driver of a pickup truck was killed (indirect-related death) when their vehicle slid into another truck near Janesville (Rock Co.) at about 1830 CST. Several other drivers of vehicles involved in accidents needed medical treatment at local hospitals. This event was the first widespread, accumulating snow of the 2003-04 winter season, consequently drivers were traveling too fast for the conditions.

**WIZ046-056**

**Marquette - Sauk**

<b>10</b>	<b>1500CST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Heavy Snow</b>
	<b>1700CST</b>			

A small part of south-central Wisconsin received 6 to 7 inches of snow by about 1500 CST in a marginal winter storm. Seven inches was measured at Montello (Marquette Co.), and Reedsburg (Sauk Co.). Accumulating snow started about 0400 CST, and was preceded by rain. Being that this was the first appreciable accumulating snow of the 2003-04 winter season, probably an estimated (based on newspaper reports) dozen or two dozen vehicle accidents occurred due to "driving too fast for conditions." Elsewhere in south-central Wisconsin two to four inches fell, and just 1 to 2 inches fell over southeast Wisconsin.